GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:939
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Free Internet Data
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben;Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India needs over 80 lakhs wifi hotspots against 31000 presently available for Digital India;

(b) if so, the steps Government is planning in this regard for Digital Technology to be accessible to every citizen of the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide 100 MB free data to rural subscribers in order to facilitate cashless transaction; and

(d) if so, the number of villages proposed to be equipped with the said facility, State-wise and the time by which the same is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) TheTelecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has floated on 13.07.2016 a Consultation Paper on "Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks" wherein the number of Wi-Fi hotspot in India (in 2016) has been given as 31,518.It has been further mentioned in the Consultation Paper that India requires 8 lakh additional hotspots.BharatNet Project (Phase-II) plans to provide one Wi-Fi hotspot in each Gram Panchayat.

(c) & (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

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